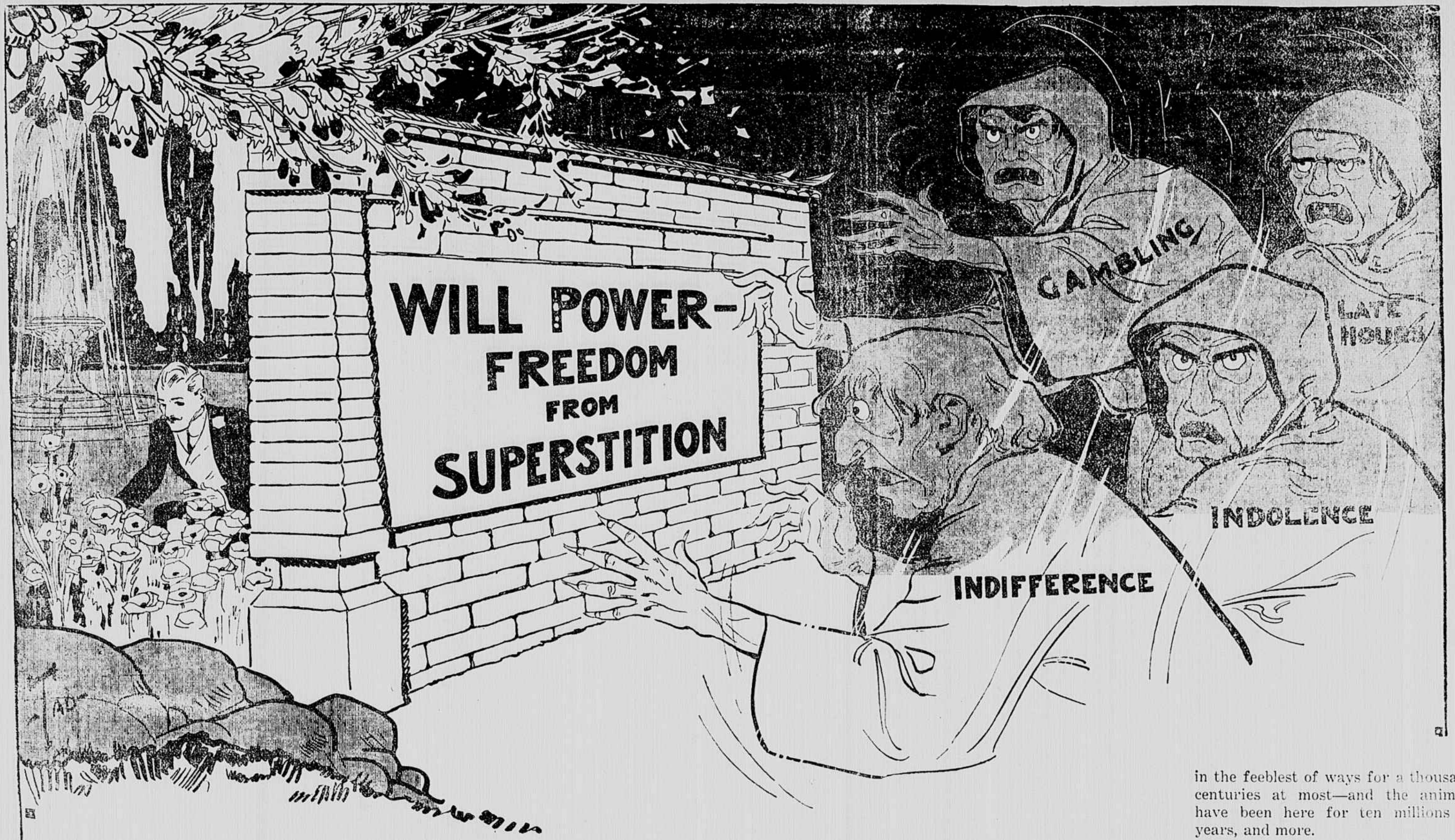


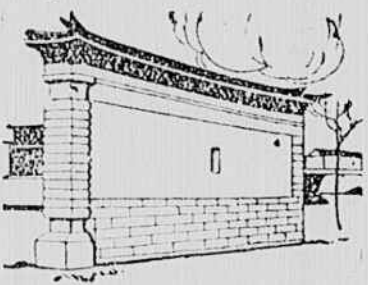
HOW TO FIGHT EVIL SPIRITS



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This little picture shows an actual wall that the Chinese put up to keep out devils and evil spirits.



When you enter a Chinese home you find even in the poorest houses a screen just inside the door. That is not to keep people from looking in, it is to keep the devils from walking in.

When men are rich in China you find outside of their houses, before the door immensely expensive walls of stone highly ornamented.

These expensive walls are also intended to keep out the evil spirits.

The simple-minded Chinese believe that devils can only walk in a straight line. They think that evil spirits cannot go around corners. So the Chinese gentleman puts a wall in front of his door. He walks around the corner in a crooked line, gets inside his house, and believes that he is keeping the devils outside.

In this country we don't believe that our evil spirits must go in a straight line. We know, on the contrary, that the crooked line is their favorite path.

We know also that the evil spirits to be feared, the only kind that exist, are inside of our own brains. We can't keep them out with a stone wall or a steel door. Those evil spirits can go through a crack, and follow the most crooked road.

None the less, we can, if we will, shut them out in time, although a mason with his bricks and stone cannot do it for us.

We Can't Do It, as the Chinese Do, With a Wall of Stone. Our Devils, Unlike Theirs, Can Move in Very Crooked Lines. But Every Man, if He Will, Can Build for Himself a Wall of Character and Intellectual Habit That Will Do What the Chinese Wall Cannot Do. This Is the Season of Hope and of Wise Planning.

The cartoonist copying in this big picture the little Chinese picture tries to show how we can do for ourselves, as intelligent human beings, that which the foolish Chinese try to do in a superstitious manner.

The artist's idea is that man can build for himself a mental wall that will keep away the evil that interferes with him, and enables him to work in peace and develop behind that wall.

And the picture, fanciful as it is, with its demons of gambling, laziness, etc., on the outside, with the good-looking young man cultivating his garden inside, is a truthful picture.

Men can protect themselves with a wall built of will power and freedom from false ideas, superstitions, bigotry and prejudice.

Man is a mental machine. The devils that live in man's mind interfere with the machine.

You have got inside of your head, that white ivory temple, a brain inherited from thousands of different animals that lived on this earth ahead of you.

That wonderfully formed skull from which you look out at the world is simply an expansion and development of the topmost joint in your backbone.

In that developed, physical thinking machine lives the soul which is YOU. And it is constantly at war with the attractions, the temptations, the vices, all the troubles that it has inherited from animal ancestry and savage ancestry through millions of years.

Your fight against evil has got to be a fight carried on inside of your own mind.

The wall that you build around your thinking machinery, around your will, must be a mental wall, built up of regular thought, of good thought, suppression of evil and the exercise of qualities that give results, perseverance, consistency, justice.

Sometimes the building of a wall such as we need is as tedious as was the building of the great Chinese Wall.

The Chinese built that huge wall around their kingdom to keep out the Tartars and other hordes, just as they build the little walls in front of their doors to keep out evil spirits.

Both walls were foolish and useless. For the Tartars came in and ruled in China for centuries, just as the evil spirits dodge around the little brick walls and go into the Chinese house.

Your mental building may be as tiresome and slow as the Chinese wall. But, at least, when the wall is built in your mind it will do the work for which it was built.

This season of spring, of new life on the earth, new possibilities, is the season of hope. It is the good time for the man who has been discouraged, whose years of failure, repeated efforts ending in lack of success, have discouraged him. It is the time for him to realize that hope is never lost while man lives, and that as long as a man hopes and tries he CAN build his wall, he can keep out failure and keep down the weaknesses inherited, that grow up

in the brain and destroy useful thought, as weeds destroy the useful growth in a garden.

The one thing to keep alive in the mind is HOPE.

Carlyle's wonderful old character, Teuffeldroch, says:

"Man is, properly speaking, based upon Hope; this world of his is emphatically the Place of Hope."

This world is a world of hope. And this is hope's blossoming season. Hope and courage are practically the same. We should keep in mind Goethe's lines, "Courage gone, everything gone, better thou wert never born."

If at the end of a week you find courage failing and hope dim, go out into the country and look at the weaker animals, that share this earth with you.

Watch some patient bird build for the third, fourth and tenth time the nest that has been cruelly destroyed.

Watch the spider work over and over at the web—patient, never discouraged.

See the feeble blades of grass struggling against heat and drouth, and the pressure of weeds and other enemies.

All of Nature is hope, a courageous struggle, perseverance.

Man is the weakest animal, the feeblest, the least persistent.

For awhile he considers himself the ruler of the globe, full of pride and confidence—he is, in reality, in a transitional, changing state, half way between the animal of the past and the real man who is to be on this earth in the future.

Our brains have only just been acquired. Man has been able to think

in the feeblest of ways for a thousand centuries at most—and the animals have been here for ten millions of years, and more.

Man has had a language for only a few centuries. As a race he has been a reading animal ONLY DURING THE PAST GENERATION.

Our minds easily become tired; all of our other organs work splendidly. The lunatic walks, sees, feels and hears. It is the weak mind that goes first.

As you struggle to keep alive hope and courage, and try to build up inside of your brain, as our ingenious artist suggests, such a wall of self-protection as the Chinaman builds outside of his house, remember that WORK alone is worth while.

The very worst that can happen to you IS THE ENDING OF THIS LIFE.

That is not such a serious thing. And while the life lasts you might as well keep working at it, planning, fighting yourself and building.

The worst of the evil spirits that attack us is laziness. Nine-tenths of all the failures could have been successes if they had not been indolent, easily tired by mental work, the only kind that counts.

Laziness, indolence, weakness in mental effort—they are the big trouble.

Idleness makes room for all the other troubles; vices grow where good thoughts are not growing, just as weeds grow when the hoe is idle.

Many will look at this picture and think it exaggerated. And many will read this dull editorial and call it the dreariest, driest kind of a sermon.

But this Sunday newspaper goes into many thousands of American families. And it would make a great difference in the result of life and work in this country in the next generation if five or ten thousand young people should take this picture to heart, think about it for themselves and start now building the right kind of a wall, behind which their work, mental and spiritual, can be successfully carried on.

Above all, keep hope alive, and courage. They are to man what steam is to the engine, and electric force to the dynamo.